

Sponsored By: Assemblymember Mayfield
Adopted: 10/18/16

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 16-080**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE RESTORATION OF FUNDING TO THE STATE OF ALASKA SNOWMOBILE TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (SNOWTRAC) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 VIA THE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET PROCESS OR OTHER LEGISLATIVE MEANS.

WHEREAS, the Governor vetoed funding in the fiscal year 2017 budget consisting of \$250,000, which was appropriated by the Legislature and meant to fund SNOWTRAC related programs in the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the snowmobile trails advisory council was established under Title 41 through the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR), with the mission to fairly represent all Alaskans by advising DPOR on snowmobile issues including funding, safety, registration, education, access, trail grooming, marking, development, and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, A.S. 28.39.020 authorizes the Alaska State Department of Administration, Division of Motor Vehicles to collect snowmobile and off-highway vehicle registration fees; and

WHEREAS, The SNOWTRAC Program is one of very few revenue neutral, self-funded, user based, programs in the state of Alaska with all funding being derived from the registration of snowmobiles and off-highway vehicles; and

WHEREAS, money collected from registrations fund safety programs, education, trail access and development, trail grooming, and trail signage; and

WHEREAS, support of winter trails bring increased commerce and provides jobs to Alaska communities through increased recreational visitation, providing revenue throughout the tough winter season; and

WHEREAS, a return on investment analysis done by earth economics, dated December 11, 2015, indicates "that for every \$1 spent on public open space in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, there is a \$5.31 return on that investment. Not only is investment in open spaces a fiscally responsible decision; it is also necessary for the survival of ecosystems and all of the Alaska communities they support;" and

WHEREAS, there are over 39,555 registered snowmobile users in the state of Alaska and that approximately 85 percent of those users either directly benefit from or have the potential to benefit from the funding and services provided by SNOWTRAC; and

WHEREAS, it would be a breach of trust for the state of Alaska to discontinue the SNOWTRAC program and use those funds for other purposes, when so many registered snowmobile users pay these fees with the reasonable expectation that those funds will be used to support trail projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly hereby supports the restoration of funding to the state of Alaska snowmobile trails advisory council for fiscal year 2017 via the supplemental budget process or other legislative means and respectfully requests that the Governor and Legislature do likewise.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 18 day of October, 2016.



VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Sykes, Beck, McKee, Colligan, Mayfield, Doty,
and Kowalke

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